

## Seventeen by neab

**Category:** Stranger Things (TV 2016)

**Genre:** Alternate Universe - Canon Divergence, Angst and Hurt/Comfort, F/M, Songfic, the only difference is they're in high school, the upside down is still a thing

**Language:** English

**Characters:** Dustin Henderson, Eleven (Stranger Things), Lucas Sinclair, Mike Wheeler

**Relationships:** Eleven & Mike Wheeler, Eleven/Mike Wheeler

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**Summary:**

based off the song Seventeen from the Heathers musical! Eleven and Mike are in high school in this but just so it being based off the song would make sense lol

## Seventeen

*Fine, we're damaged*

*Really damaged*

Mike knew a lot had happened to them. To Hawkins. Their whole group of friends had experienced it on a personal level.

*But that does not make us wise*

*We're not special, we're not different*

Mike wished it felt like nothing had changed. Or nothing was going to fall apart at any moment. Mike often found himself wishing none of it had ever happened, or at least none of the bad things.

*We don't choose who lives or dies*

*Let's be normal, see bad movies*

He didn't understand what was so difficult about being normal, what was so hard that El couldn't just pretend to be a normal teen with him.

*Sneak a beer and watch tv*

*We'll bake brownies or go bowling*

All he wanted to do was the cliché relationship things with her. There was some wall though that he couldn't figure out how to break down.

*Don't you want a life with me? Can't we be seventeen?*

He just wanted to act like normal teens, but deep down Mike knew they would never be able to.

*That's all I want to do*

*If you could let me in*

But he wanted to understand. El was so guarded, maybe even more now than when they first met.

*I could be good with you*

*People hurt us*

Mike knew El had been hurt, and maybe not exactly how, or for how long, or even by who. But Mike wanted to make things better and let her know that he was going to be there for and never hurt her.

*Or they vanish*

*And you're right that really blows*

Everyone they knew felt affected by the disappearance of Will and Eleven, and the upside down. Mike knew it was selfish and felt guilty for it, but he thought he went through the worst with Will, El, and later learning about Nancy's experiences.

*But we let go, take a deep breath*

*Then go buy some summer clothes*

He really just wanted it all to stop though. So much was changing, and had already changed. He tried but didn't understand why they couldn't just take their minds off everything.

*We'll go camping, play some poker*

*And we'll eat some chili fries*

For awhile after everything had happened even just hanging out in Mike's basement felt weird. It felt like they were all waiting for the worst. In Mike's opinion that feeling never really left him. He still feels the need to protect everyone, now more than ever.

*Maybe prom night*

*Maybe dancing*

El had been gone too long after the demogorgon to go to the Snowflake Ball. Mike didn't know how to tell her he would've dance anywhere with her even if there was no music.

*Don't stop looking in my eyes (your eyes)*

*Can't we be seventeen*

Deep down Mike knew that they all had each other. They were all each other's support. Some more than others, but at times Mike didn't know if El felt the gravity of how much he needed her.

*Is that so hard to do?*

*If you could let me in*

Over time after that winter, things slowly got better and as close back to normal as they were probably ever going to be. There were still some hard days when he saw Will's eyes get a bit glazed over staring at nothing remembering the chill and darkness of that horrible place. And Mike saw El's short glances toward the spot her fort had been, that had long been taken down after Mike's mom didn't think it was good for him, and the sadness that lived in her eyes when she caught Mike's eyes looking at her, and she always smiled to assure him that she was fine.

*I could be good with you*

*Let us be seventeen*

Even after all of this, Mike dreamed of being a normal teenager with El. Running away to a different place with her and making sure they were happy.

*If we still got the right*

*So what's it gonna be*

He didn't know if they could though. There was never a tell tale sign that everything was alright, no burst of white light over Hawkins like in the movies.

*I wanna be with you (Wanna be with you)*

*I wanna be with you tonight*

In little ways though Mike tried to remind El every day that he wanted to be with her in whatever way that was. He didn't care. He just wanted to be near her and make sure they were ok.

*Yeah we're damaged, Badly damaged*

They would both occasionally wake up with nightmares. Her at the Byer's house where she lived now with Joyce, Jonathan, Will, and even Hopper had moved in. Mike at his house. They would each call each other on their walkie talkies just to hear each other's voices.

*But your love's too good to lose*

*Hold me tighter*

When it was just the two of them in Mike's basement watching some movie for the fifteenth time Mike would look down at the girl in his

arms and smile softly, and pull her closer and start watching the movie again feeling comforted. And El would look up at Mike and nuzzle closer into him feeling the same.

*Even closer*

*I'll stay if I'm what you choose*

Back when El first came back she was really nervous that the boys would want nothing to do with her, but especially Mike.

*Can we be seventeen? (If I am what you choose)*

Mike immediately ran to her and hugged her tight though sniffing, and whispered to her that he was glad she was back.

*If we've still got the right ( Because you're the one I choose)*

El knew then that she and Mike were going to be more than that concept Dustin and Lucas had told her about before she disappeared. More than friends. Somehow. She didn't really know the words to describe it, but she felt there was something more than friends in this world.

*(You're the one I choose) You're the one I choose.*

Mike and El worked together, with the help of their friends. And

everyone slowly healed from that one week of winter. All the boys make sure to say goodbye to each other and to El before they leave anywhere, and Mike and El hug a little tighter each time they say goodbye. They may not be entirely normal because of what happened, but they know they'll always make sure to come back to each other.

### **Author's Note:**

Thanks for reading! I hope you enjoyed it. This is the first thing i've written in a long time and one of my only ventures outside of the 1d fandom lol so sorry if it's rough!

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